



ENVIROSERIES

Towards a Smart Sustainable City – Potential and Opportunities for Hong Kong

22 Nov 2017 (Wednesday) | 9:30am- 5:00pm | The Mira Hong Kong

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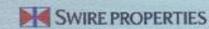
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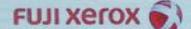
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Summary of the Smart City Blueprint for Hong Kong and BEC's EnviroSeries Conference in November 2017

The *Smart City Blueprint for Hong Kong* was released on 15 December 2017. It maps out the Government's plan for smart city development in the next five years and beyond. It was developed through a consultancy study and a public consultation. Click [here](#) to see BEC's response to the consultation.

If you'd like to find out more about what the Blueprint means for Hong Kong and BEC's views on how this plan can help deliver livability, a transition to a low carbon economy, and better use of our resources, please read further. BEC's views are drawn from our policy submissions and messages that emerged from our [EnviroSeries Conference](#) held in November 2017.

BEC is pleased to note that recommendations we have made are reflected in the Blueprint's overarching approach and in many of the specific initiatives.

In particular, we are pleased that the Blueprint:

- Acknowledges the environmental imperative underlying the Smart City programme, by stating the aim to transform Hong Kong to become more green, clean, liveable, sustainable, resilient, and resource efficient as part of the mission of smart city development.
- Recognises the merits in partnering with the private sector – calling for close collaboration with businesses and affirming support to enable innovation, trialing and incubation.

Smart Mobility

Summary of Government Initiatives

- Improve intermodal transport through real-time displays in mobile devices, public transport interchanges as well as bus stops.
- Manage traffic and congestion through electronic road pricing, electronic fare payment for tunnels and public transportation, and providing real-time traffic and parking information.
- Ensure universal accessibility, improve walkability and promote bike-friendly NDAs.
- Encourage data transparency among public transport operators.
- Supports a seamless experience at HKIA.

Our Views from Previous Policy Submissions

- Smart mobility is about smart decisions as to infrastructure and vehicle types needed, as well as being smart in the use of infrastructure for example through managing demand for road space and improving inter-modal transport.
- We are supportive of the above policy measures which will help with the efficient use of existing infrastructure, encourage alternatives to private vehicle usage, and facilitate a transition to low emission vehicles in particular commercial vehicles and buses.
- We suggest the potential from marine transport is fully taken into account whilst encouraging a shift to cleaner ferries and other local vessels, through appropriate incentive systems.

Smart Living

Summary of Government Initiatives

- Increase Wi-Fi hotspots, continued development of technology and digital infrastructure for payment, identification, support of elderly and disabled people, and healthcare.

Our Views from Previous Policy Submissions

- We welcome the initiatives put forward but suggest enshrining of sustainable behavior as a central part of smart living. We look forward to initiatives that encourage energy efficient living and sustainable consumption.
- As to sustainable consumption, we recommend creating demand for green products, through clear definitions of such products, accreditation schemes, and databases. [BEC's Sustainable Consumption Website](#), for instance, would support this aspect of smart living.

Smart Environment

Summary of Government Initiatives

- Alignment with Hong Kong's wider goals of Climate Action Plan 2030+.
- Continued promotion of energy efficiency through promoting retro-commissioning and smart/IT technologies in buildings, progressively switching public lighting to LEDs and green buildings design.
- The use of MSW charging and remote sensing to improve waste management and monitor pollution.

Our Views from Previous Policy Submissions

- Protecting and enhancing our environment and transitioning to a low carbon and circular economy should, in our view, underpin the Smart City Plan. They should be clear goals of the programme. We are supportive of the stated alignment with other programmes like the Climate Action Plan 2030+.
- We recommend policy initiatives to spur the transition to low-carbon smart buildings, supporting other planned initiatives on smart buildings, essentially to use electricity efficiently and also the potential to harness technology to manage waste efficiently. Details can be found in our [Policy Submission](#) on the October 2017 Policy Address.
- We emphasize the importance of "smart decision-making" for a "smart environment" taking on board the value of our natural assets for biodiversity, leisure and other purposes.

Smart People

Summary of Government Initiatives

- Nurture talent and develop human capital needed for a smart city, through STEM education in schools and enhanced R&D capability, as well as attracting and retaining more professionals in selected sectors e.g. biotech and AI.
- Support a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship through incubation, attracting venture capital, and training including MTR and Aviation Academies.

Our Views from Previous Policy Submissions

- We support efforts to foster a culture of innovation and trialing. As well as the above, we recommend that the policy framework be reviewed to support piloting of new ideas and scaling them up, which includes setting up funding schemes and putting in systems so that ideas come to the fore for funding and support, and also supporting a healthy start-up ecosystem for which affordable space is critical.

Smart Government



Summary of Government Initiatives

- Open up more public and private sector data through a one-stop data portal.
- Develop and utilize hard and soft smart infrastructure.
- Strive for a coordinated approach within the Government through an inter-departmental steering committee chaired by the Chief Executive, and striving to streamline implementation of smart city projects through coordination support from the Smart City Office.

Our Views from Previous Policy Submissions

- We reaffirm the importance of a coordinated cross-bureau approach to smart city development, and ensuring alignment with Hong Kong's environmental goals of carbon reduction & energy saving, improved air quality, waste reduction, and protection of our natural environment.
- We support a more positive approach to capturing the benefits of open data and provision for sharing of data by businesses as well as by Government.

Smart Economy



Summary of Government Initiatives

- Initiatives to develop and promote Fintech and enhance the tourist experience by smart airport systems, Wi-Fi access, as well as use of technology to better manage visitor flow.
- The review of legislation and regulations to promote sharing economy and to remove provisions which impede smart city development.
- The promotion for R&D and re-industrialisation to develop new economic pillars.

Our Views from Previous Policy Submissions

- We acknowledge measures to support R&D, and the much-needed review and removal of outdated legislation.
- We recommend trials and pilots of innovative approaches in the context of sustainable development, for example in the arena of waste to energy. We also stress the importance of trialing, upscaling, and ensuring learning and human capital is developed through trials.

BEC is strongly supportive of a continuing transition to a smart city, and recognizes the Smart City Blueprint for Hong Kong as an important milestone in the continued transition to a smart city. BEC and the business community looks forward to working closely with the Government in Hong Kong's development towards a smart sustainable city.

In fact, our flagship event, [EnviroSeries Conference](#) held last November was themed *Towards a Smart Sustainable City – Potential and Opportunities for Hong Kong*. The key messages are highlighted below.

Key messages from BEC's EnviroSeries Conference (Nov 2017)



Developing a shared vision for Hong Kong as a smart sustainable city, recognizing that every city is unique



A smart city should protect the basic needs of people such as clean air, a waste-free environment, and a stable climate



Being "smart" is not only about technological advances, but also well-informed decisions relating to important aspects of the city



Hong Kong is in many ways an exemplar smart city, for example the mass transport system



Collaboration amongst government bureaux, business, academia, looking at immediate and long term needs is crucial



Data is of utmost importance for smart decision-making, and needs to be readily accessible if its benefits are to be optimized

The full conference report is immediately available for BEC members [here](#), and will be uploaded to the BEC website for public access in late March.

About Business Environment Council Limited 商界環保協會有限公司

Business Environment Council Limited ("BEC") is an independent, charitable membership organisation, established by the business sector in Hong Kong. Since its establishment in 1992, BEC has been at the forefront of promoting environmental excellence by advocating the uptake of clean technologies and practices which reduce waste, conserve resources, prevent pollution and improve corporate environmental and social responsibility. BEC offers sustainable solutions and professional services covering advisory, research, assessment, training and award programs for government, business and the community, thus enabling environmental protection and contributing to the transition to a low carbon economy.

2/F, 77 Tat Chee Avenue, Kowloon Tong, Hong Kong
香港九龍塘達之路 77 號 2 樓

T. (852) 2784 3900
F. (852) 2784 6699
www.bec.org.hk